

VIA: AIR
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SEARCH NO. 50-A 1968

CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, Foreign Division M
FROM : Chief of Station, Berlin
SUBJECT: GENERAL Operational [Signature] Bell, D
SPECIFIC: General RAIC and Resistance Group
REF: WASH-8074, FULL-621, MOL-A-2678, FULL-911

DATE: 25 August 1968

1. Attached are two USAGC reports -- his P/01904 and P/01937 -- touching on the same subject that has been previously reported by two independent OFFSPRING channels, GVA and GVL.

2. Please note that the "Captain PHILOTHY" of FULL-621 now comes out in the USAGC material as Captain Leopold BERTALANT. Note also that George KELLER (of MOL-A-1546 and 1796) is listed as liaison officer to OFFSPRING's GVA, getting money from GVA and supplying them intelligence reports in turn from the CAR group.

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UNGARISCHE
EMIGRATION

11.8.1950 (P/01933)

Conference of the Hungarian Front Fighters Group in Munich
Betr.: DIE TAGUNG DES UNGARISCHEN FRONTKÄMPFERBUNDES IN
MÜNCHEN

Zeit des Vorganges: 15.7.1950

MU 1

In der Meldung

"Neuorganisation des Ungarischen Frontkämpferbundes in der Emigration" vom 8.8.1950 -
P/01904 - P

war berichtet worden, dass der ungarische Frontkämpferverband Magyar Harcosok Bajtársi Közessége (MHBK) bei seiner Tagung in MÜNCHEN am 15.7.1950 eine Reform seiner Organisation beschlossen habe. In Ergänzung dazu wird noch ein Bericht über den Verlauf der Tagung von Seiten eines Teilnehmers gegeben.

Anwesend waren etwa 80 ehemalige ungarische Offiziere aus Deutschland und Österreich. Bezüglich der Ziele des MHBK bestand keine Meinungsverschiedenheit; die christlich-nationale Gesamtorientierung, der Kampf gegen den Bolschewismus, die Ablehnung einer Kriegsschuld Ungarns bilden nach wie vor die Hauptmerkmale des MHBK in programmatischer Hinsicht.

Ausser der Reform der Organisation (siehe den oben bezeichneten Bericht) wurden auch Pläne für ein eventuelles aktives Eingreifen der ungarischen Emigration im Kriegsfall

und die Widerstandstätigkeit in Ungarn selbst besprochen.
(Über Einzelheiten husserte sich der Gewährsmann, offenbar wegen eines besonderen Schweigeverbotes, nicht.)

In politischer Hinsicht wurde die Endgültigkeit des Bruches zwischen der Ferenc NAGY-Gruppe bzw. der Ungarischen Gemeinschaft einerseits und dem MHBK andererseits deutlich. Damit ist aber nicht eine en bloc-Ablehnung des New Yorker Ungarischen Komitees durch den MHBK verbunden, denn ein Teil des Komitees, so z.B. Tibor ECKHARDT, steht dem MHBK freundlich gegenüber und wünscht eine Zusammenarbeit mit ihm. Hingegen lehnt die Ungarische Gemeinschaft den MHBK schroff ab, und der europäische Leiter der Ungarischen Gemeinschaft, Géza SOÓS, hat vor kurzem erklärt, mit Bezug auf den MHBK, diese "Faschisten und Schwaben" müssen "vernichtet" werden, wenn sie "keine Ruhe geben".

Im Verlauf der Tagung ereignete sich ein bemerkenswerter Zwischenfall: Ein politisch naiver alter Oberst, Ferenc KOSZORUS, hielt, offenbar von der Ungarischen Gemeinschaft dazu veranlaßt, eine Debattenrede, in welcher er gegen die "fremdrassige Führung in der ungarischen Armee", d.h. die aus Österreich stammenden alten k.u.k. Offiziere, und "SchwabenabUmlinge" sprach (die deutschsprachigen ungarischen Staatsbürgler werden von den Ungarn als "Schwaben" bezeichnet). Er behauptete, dass die ungarischen Soldaten sich nur dann gut geschlagen hätten, wenn sie "rassisches-magyarische" Kommandanten hatten und nannte als Beispiel aus dem Ersten Weltkrieg das Infanterieregiment Nr. 5 aus BUDAPEST-UJVIDÉK. Daher sollten im MHBK nur "rassisches-magyarische" Offiziere Ämter bekleiden dürfen. Daraufhin meldete sich ein ehemaliger Offizier des genannten Regiments zum Wort und erklärte, er könne sich der Ansicht des Herrn Obersten KOSZORUS nicht anschließen, denn das genannte Regiment, das sich im Ersten Weltkrieg tatsächlich hervorragend bewährt habe, sei unter dem Kommando eines Oberst v. WELLENREITER gestanden und Brigadier sei ein Generalmajor GÜRTLER gewesen (die Namen sind möglicherweise genau wiedergegeben, es waren aber jedenfalls deutsche Namen).

Generalmajor ZAKO schnitt eine weitere Diskussion über diesen Punkt mit der Konstatierung ab, die Mitglieder des NHBK seien alle ungarische Offiziere und er werde niemals einen seiner Kameraden darnach fragen, wie Mutter oder Grossvater gehießen haben, denn Hessenforschung sei in Ungarn, abgesehen von einer kurzen Periode, die besser vergessen werden sollte, nie Sitte gewesen.

Zu der Tagung erschien auch Otto von HABSBURG, der längere Zeit anwesend blieb. Er wurde begeistert begrüßt und von den Teilnehmern ausnahmslos mit Kgl. Majestät angeredet. Sein Aufreten bei der Tagung war ein ausgesprochener Erfolg. Seine Person machte auch auf die jüngeren Offiziere unter 30 Jahren, unter denen es bisher wenig Legitimisten gab, sichtlich großen Eindruck. Allgemein fiel auf, dass Otto von HABSBURG im Gegensatz zu seinem Vater Karl ein fehlerloses, schönes Ungarisch spricht. Duroti zwanglose Unterhaltung mit allen Anwesenden wirkte sehr gewinnend. Er war auch Ehrengast bei dem Festessen nach der Konferenz. Ausserdem fand eine längere Unterredung zwischen Otto von HABSBURG und Generalmajor ZAKO statt. ZAKO, der früher nicht als Legitimist galt, muss heute dieser Gruppe zugerechnet werden.

Anderseits scheint sich Otto von HABSBURG mehr als bisher an die rechtsstehenden Offiziere zu halten oder zumindest auch in diesen Kreisen Anhänger werben zu wollen, gewiss deswegen, weil die von ihm vor etwa 2 Jahren angestrakte Zusammenarbeit mit dem New Yorker Ungarischen Komitee zwar der Form halber zustande kam, aber nie effektiv wurde und zwar wegen des Dazwischentretnens der Ungarischen Gemeinschaft.

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TRANSLATION

Hungarian Emigration
11 August 1950 (T/OS 3)

(Confidential)
Subject: Hungarian Front Fighter Group in Munich.

Date: 31 August 1950

MH

In the report on the reorganization of the Hungarian F. A. Fighting Group in September of 8 August 1950, it was stated that the Hungarian Front Fighters Group (Magyar Nemzeti Fronti Kocsmarg - MNFK), at a meeting held in Munich on 18 July 1950, decided to reorganize their unit. For additional detail, a report on the meeting prepared by one of the members was included herewith forwarded.

About 30 former Hungarian officials now living in Germany, who were present, were present. There are no differences of opinion regarding the principles of the MNFK - the National Christian orientation of the members; the fight against Poland, and the elimination of a Hungarian war debt, all clearly basic remain objectives of the MNFK.

In addition to the reform of the organization (see the report referred to above), plans for the eventual mobilization of the Hungarian emigrants in the event of war, and of resistance activities in Hungary, were also discussed at this meeting. (Some did not supply additional details, probably because of a strict directive forbidding such discussions).

Regarding political matters, the finality of the break between the Ferenc HEGYI group and the MNFK was made clear. This does not mean, however, that there will be a complete withdrawal from the New York Hungarian Committee. Several members of the Committee, such as Tivadar SZEPPART, are still MNFK and want to cooperate with that group. On the other hand, Hungarian Union regards the MNFK with disdain, and Geza KOSZORUS, the leader of this Union in Europe recently referred to the MNFK as "Fascists and Germans"; we must be "revolutionaries" if they "permit no peace".

During the conference, a noteworthy incident took place. A politically naive old Colonel, Jozsef KOSZORUS, who was probably prompted by the Hungarian Union, started a debate in which he spoke out against the foreign leadership in the Hungarian Army (i.e. the old k.u.k. officers who came from Austria, and the Schlesien descendants, (German speaking Hungarian nationalists) are called "Schlesier" by other Hungarians). He stated that the Hungarian soldiers would fight well only if they had Magyar commanders and gave as an example the Infantry Regiment Number 6 from Budapest-Ujlak which was active during the First World War. Therefore, the MNFK should only accept Magyar officers. Following this, a former officer of the above regiment took the floor and explained that he could not agree with Colonel KOSZORUS's point of view, since the regiment, which displayed itself exceedingly well in the first World War, was commanded by Colonel von WELTZENBERGER and the Brigadier von General OBERLIER. (The latter names are perhaps incorrect, however, the German names were mentioned).

Conferences of the Hungarian Fighter Front Group in Munich continued.

Major General ZAKO interrupted the discussion at that point and stated that the members of the HUFK were all Hungarian officers and that he would never question the parenthood of any of his comrades, since racial invasions, like in Hungary, with the exception of a brief period which would be better forgotten, were not the practice.

Otto von HAPSBERG also attended this conference, and remained present for a long time. He was heartily greeted, and addressed, without exception, as "Royal Majesty". His appearance was an outspoken success and prepared to make an obviously good impression on the Officers under 30, who saw little service under him as their legitimate ruler. It was also apparent that the von HAPSBERG, as opposed to his father Earl, spoke perfect Hungarian and to make a favorable effect by conversing without strain with all present. He was also the guest of honor at the banquet which was held after the conference. Otto von HAPSBERG had a long discussion with Major General ZAKO and the latter, who was formerly not a Legitimist, must now be included in this group.

On the other hand, Otto von HAPSBERG appeared to be trying to ingratiate himself with the officers, or at least become a member of their circle. This action was probably caused by the fact that two years ago his attempted cooperation with the Hungarian Committee in New York never completely materialized and was never effective due to the intervention of the Hungarian Union.

Einh. Nr. Metz. 2165

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UNGARISCHE
EMIGRATION

Reorganization of the Hungarian Front fighters Group in Switzerland
Betr.: NEUORGANISATION DES UNGARISCHEN FRONTKÄMPFERBUNDS IN
DEUTSCHER EMIGRATION

Zeit des Vorgangs: Mitte Juli 1950

MM 1

Die am 15.7.1950 in MÜNCHEN abgehaltene Führerkonferenz des MHBSZ, jetzt MHBK, d.i. Magyar Harcosok Bajtárai Szövetsége, d.h. Ungarischer Frontkämpferverband (statt, wie bisher, Frontkämpferbund), hatte vor allem den Zweck, die Organisation neu zu regeln.

Präsident des MHBK ist Generalmajor András ZÁKÓ, Adjutant des Präsidenten Lieutenant Ervin GÉVAY, Deckname: FAGYIMA (nicht identisch mit dem Ministerialsekretär GÉVAY-WOLFF). Ferner bestehen folgende Abteilungen:

1. Strategische Abteilung (Kriegsvorbereitung, Operationspläne, Einsatz der wehrfähigen ungarischen Emigranten in einer gegebenenfalls aufzustellenden ungarischen Legion oder Armee): Leiter Oberst im Generalstab Lajos NÁDAS, der bisher die Nachrichtenabteilung des MHBK leitete, Pfeilkreuzler, stark deutschfreudlich, politisch in einem gewissen Gegensatz zu ZAKO.

2. Presse- und Propagandaabteilung (Propaganda für MHBK, Verbindung zu anderen politischen Gruppen): Leiter Hauptmann im Generalstab Miklós KORPONAY. KORPONAY ist rechtsradikal, aber nicht Pfeilkreuzler; ein Freund des Oberstleutnants György KOLLÉNYI (siehe unten), früher Angehöriger des ungarischen Abwehrdienstes, besonders in der Karpatoukraine und in Russland eingesetzt gewesen. KORPONAY hat die schwierige und nicht unge-

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fährliche Aufgabe erhalten, die Aufmerksamkeit von den Leitern des Nachrichtendienstes des MHBK abzulenken, indem er sich so verhält, als obliege diese Aufgabe ihm selbst.

3. Offensiver Nachrichtendienst (Beschaffung von Nachrichten aus Ungarn, Ausbildung von Widerstandskämpfern und Funksäulen für den Ernstfall): Leiter Hauptmann László BERTALANFFY, gewesener Lehrer für Abwehrfragen an der Ungarischen Militärakademie, konservativ orientiert.

4. Defensiver Nachrichtendienst (Aufdeckung von ÁVO- und sonstigen KP-Agenten im Westen, Verbindung mit den französischen Abwehrstellen in INNSBRUCK): Leiter Major Attila KAPITÁNY, politisch wenig interessiert, christlich-national gesinnt wie die meisten Offiziere der Horthy-Zeit.

Die nicht unmittelbar im Dienst des MHBK stehenden ungarischen Offiziere sind in der Wachkompanie der Franzosen (Ausländer-Kompanie) in RUM (zwischen HALL und INNSBRUCK) untergebracht, wo allerdings auch jene radikalen Pfeilkreuzeroffiziere eingeteilt sind, die sich dem MHBK nicht unterstellen: wie Imre TATÁR, Ernő v. GÖMBÖS, Oberst MÉSZÁROS. Für sie gelten sogar gemässigte Pfeilkreuzler wie Oberst NÁDAS, der Leiter der strategischen Abteilung des MHBK, als "liberal", obwohl ein gewisser Kontakt zwischen MÉSZÁROS und NÁDAS bestehen soll.

Bemerkenswert ist, dass der Nachrichtenmann des MHBK in SALZBURG jetzt nicht mehr Oberstleutnant György KOLIÉNYI ist, sondern ein gewisser PALLY (möglicherweise Deckname); KOLIÉNYI spielt jetzt die Rolle eines Verbindungsmannes zur 6. Organisation. Zwischen dem MHBK und KOLIÉNYI soll angeblich eine Vereinbarung bestehen, wonach dieser dem MHBK eine gewisse Summe regelmässig bezahlt, wofür er vom MHBK Nachrichten erhält. Ob KOLIÉNYI dem MHBK außer Geld auch Nachrichten übermittelt, ist nicht einwandfrei feststellbar, aber wahrscheinlich. Die Einzelheiten der Vereinbarung sind angeblich von KOLIÉNYI und KORFONAY fest-

gelegt worden. Nach hier vorliegenden Informationen besitzt der WHEK außerdem Geld von einer französischen Stelle in INNSBRUCK sowie angeblich auch direkt von einer USA-Stelle. Was mit den Geldern des ungarischen Nachrichtendienstes geschehen ist, die während des Krieges in die Schweiz gekrochen sind, dürfte nur Generalmajor ZAKO persönlich wissen, der 1944 Leiter der ungarischen Abwehr gewesen ist.

Nach aussen hin besteht Einigkeit zwischen Generalmajor ZAKO und dem Generalobersten Ferenc v. FARKAS zu KISBARNAK; intern liegt jedoch eine gewisse Spannung vor, dadurch begründet, dass FARKAS als der rangältere die Führung des ungarischen Militärs in der Emigration für sich beansprucht. Generalmajor ZAKO hat aber einen deutlichen Vorsprung, vor allem weil er sich im Gegensatz zu FARKAS politisch nicht exponiert hat und daher bei den alle Parteipolitik ablehnenden Offizieren leichter Gefolgschaft findet. Man kann sagen, dass FARKAS die ältere Generation des ungarischen Militärs, zahlenmäßig eine kleinere Gruppe, führt, während ZAKO die jüngeren Kräfte und somit die aktiveren Elemente für sich hat.

Die Nachrichten-Organisation von György KOLLENYI in SALZBURG hat gegenwärtig folgende Leitung: Stellvertreter: KOLLENYI: VISNYEY; Kanzleiarbeiten und Innendienst: Major Arpad GÖSSY; offensiver Nachrichtendienst: Oberleutnant Sándor VISNYEY, defensiver Nachrichtendienst: Hauptmann GERENCSEK; Ausbildung und Unterweisung der einzusetzenden Agenten: Oberst (oder Major) CZIKELY.

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TRANSLATION

Hungarian Information
D Att Unit 1910 (P/01211)

SUBJECT: Reorganization of the Hungarian Front Fighters Group, its organization
Date of Information: Middle of July 1959

131

The conference of the HFTK leaders, which was held in Bucharest on 15 July 1959, took place mainly to reorganize that group. The HFTK, which was formerly the MFTG (the Hungarian Hungarian National Front) became the Hungarian Front Fighters Union (former: "The Front Fighters Group").

(Major General) Antal ZAKO is the President of the HFTK and his Adjutant is Lt. Ervin GÖTTHAL (code: now VÍZMÁNY). Göthay is not identified with GEVAY-HOLYI, the Plaid's Secretary. The HFTK is composed of the following sections:

a. Strategic Section - Inquiries over preparations; operational plans; use of 1st Hungarian forces in a Hungarian Legion or Army to be organized if needed. This section is directed by General Staff Colonel Lajos KOMORNÍK, who was formerly in charge of the Intelligence section of the HFTG. He is an Arrow Cross member, strongly pro-German and of different political beliefs than ZAKO.

b. Party and Propaganda Section (Propaganda for HFTK contact with other political groups) - Chief is General Staff Captain Miklós v. KÖPFLICH, a radical rightist, but not a member of the Arrow Cross Party. Komorník is a friend of Lt. Colonel György KÜLLÉTT (see below), a former member of the Hungarian Intelligence Service who was especially active in the Carpathian Ukraine and Kubán. Köpflich received the difficult and dangerous task of diverting the attention of the leaders of the HFTK Intelligence Service and acting as if he had been given this task assignment (i.e., just the opposite).

c. Offensive Intelligence Service - (procurement of intelligence for Hungary and training of resistance fighters and radio operators to be used in the event of war); directed by Captain László BURZALMAYI, a conservative former intelligence instructor at the Hungarian Military Academy.

d. Defensive Intelligence Service - (coverage of AVO and Hungarian agents in the West; contact with French Intelligence in Innsbruck); directed by Major Attila KÁRÁTHYI who is not interested in politics and who is of National Christian beliefs as were most of the officers under Rákosi.

Hungarian officers who are not to be used immediately by the HFTK are placed in a French Guard Company (for foreigners) located at 1st, Ibrahim Hill and Innsbruck. Radical Arrow Cross Officers who do not fall under the command of the HFTK are also housed in P-5, and in this number are included László KÁTAR, Dr. von GÖLÖG and Colonel FÉSZAROS. For the latter, a radical Arrow Cross member such as Colonel KADÁS, the leader of the State's Section of the HFTG, is regarded as a liberal. There should be, however, no conflict between KADÁS and FÉSZAROS.

Reorganization of the Hungarian Front Fighters Group in Emigration (cont'd.)

It is worth noting that the MHK intelligence representative in Salzburg is no longer Lt. Colonel Gyorgy KOLLENTI, but one TALLY (stating a cover name). KOLLENTI is now serving as a contact man to the organization. There is reportedly an understanding between KOLLENTI and the IC RA, whereby the former pays a regular sum to the MHK and in return receives intelligence data. It is not known if KOLLENTI, in turn, furnishes intelligence to the MHK in addition to money, but there is a possibility that this is the case. The details of this agreement were reportedly worked out by KOHSEKI and KERONAY.

Current information indicates that the MHK receives funds not only from the French in Innsbruck, but also from an American source. Only Major General ZARC, who was Director of the Hungarian Intelligence in '41 knows what happened to the funds of the Hungarian Intelligence which were taken to Switzerland during the war.

As a result of the contact existing between Major General ZARC and Colonel General Ferenc v. FARKAS IN FISCHAMM, there is a current belief that FARKAS, as the senior Hungarian military official in emigration, still attempts to claim the leadership of the MHK. (ZARC, however, has a clear advantage while he does not oppose TAFIAS politically, and thus he has loyal followers among all officers involved in Party politics) One might say that FARKAS leads the older generation of the Hungarian Army, which is a smaller group, numerically, than the younger and more active elements ~~nowhere controlled by ZAKO.~~

The intelligence organization of Gyorgy KOLLENTI in Salzburg has at present the following leading members:

VISHNEK - KOLLENTI's representative.

(Major) ARPAD OSZSY - office work.

(Lieut. Lt) Sandor VISNEY - offensive intelligence.

PARTY CHIEF - defensive intelligence.

Col. (or Major) GAIKELY - training and instruction of the agents.

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MGLA-3168/01
P/01904) 8 Aug. 1950

HUNGARIAN EMIGRATION

MGLA-3168/01 25 + US 1950

Subject: Reorganization of the Hungarian Front Fighters Group in Emigration

Date of Info; Middle of July 1950

MM 1

The conference of the MHBK leaders, which was held in Munich on 15 July 1950, took place mainly to reorganize that group. The MHBK, which was formerly the MHB SZ is the Magyar Harcosok Bajtarsi Kosossege or the Hungarian Front Fighters Union (formerly the Front Fighters Group).

Major General Andras ZAKO is the President of the MHBK and his Adjutant is Lt. Ervin GEVAY (cover name FAGYINA). GEVAY is not identical with GEVAY-WOLFF, the Ministry Secretary. The MHBK is composed of the following sections:

a. Strategic Section - handles war preparations; operational plans; use of fit Hungarian emigres in a Hungarian Legion or Army to be organized if needed. This section is directed by General Staff Colonel Lajos NADAS, who was formerly in charge of the intelligence section of the MHBK. NADAS is an Arrow Cross member, strongly pro-German and of different political beliefs than ZAKO.

b. Press and Propaganda Section (Propaganda for MHBK contact with other political groups) - Chief is General (Staff Captain) Miklos von KORPONAY, a radical rightist, but not a member of the Arrow Cross Party. KORPONAY is a friend of Lt. Col. Gyorgy KOLLENGYI (see below), a former member of the Hungarian Intelligence Service who was especially active in Carpatho-Ukraine and Russia. KORPONAY received the difficult and dangerous task of diverting attention from outsiders away from the heads of the MHBK and by means of posing as the MHBK head himself. *Blank 6. His ZK*

c. Offensive Intelligence Service - (procurement of intelligence from Hungary and training of resistance fighters and radio operators to be used in the event of war); directed by Captain Lasslo BERTALANFFY, a conservative former intelligence instructor at the Hungarian Military Academy.

d. Defensive Intelligence Service - (coverage of AVO and Communist agents in the West; contact with French Intel. in Innsbruck); directed by Major Attila (Albin) KAPITANFFY, who is not interested in politics and who is of National Christian beliefs as were most of the officers under HORTHY.

Hungarian officers who are not to be used immediately by the MHBK are placed in a French Guard Company (for foreigners) located in Rum, between Hall and Innsbruck. Radical Arrow Cross officers who do not fall under the command of the MHBK are also housed in Rum, and in this number are included Imre TATAR, Erno von GOMBOS, and Colonel MESZAROS. For the latter, a moderate Arrow Cross member such as Col. NADAS, the leader of the Strategic Section of the MHBK, is regarded as a Liberal although there is a certain contact between NADAS and MESZAROS according to reports.

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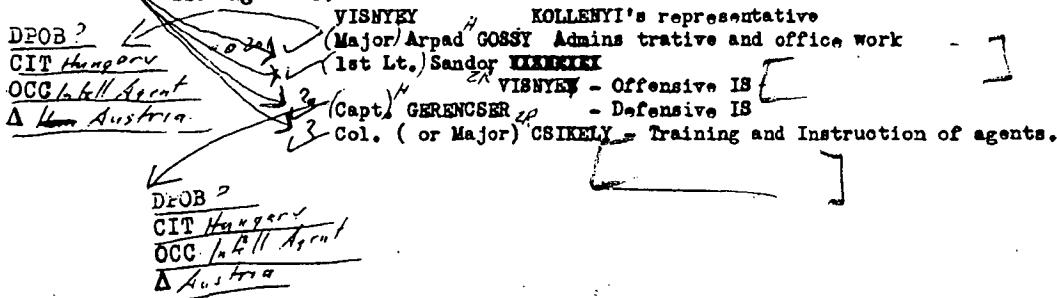
It is worth noting that the MHBK intelligence representative in Salzburg is no longer Lt. Col. Gyorgy KOLLENYI, but one PALLY (probably a cover name). KOLLENYI is now serving as a contact man to the G-Organization. There is reportedly an understanding between KOLLENYI and the MHBK, whereby the former pays a regular sum to the MHBK and in return receives intelligence data. It is not known if KOLLENYI, in turn, furnished intelligence to the MHBK in addition to money, but there is a possibility that this is the case. The details of this agreement were reportedly worked out by KOLLENYI and KORPONAY.

Current information indicates that the MHBK receives funds not only from the French in Innsbruck, but also from an American source. Only Major General ZAKO, director of the Hungarian Intelligence in 1944 knows what happened to the funds of the Hungarian Intelligence which were taken to Switzerland during the war.

As a result of the contact existing between major General ZAKO and Colonel General Ferenc v^zFARKAS zu KISBARNAK, there is a certain belief that FARKAS, as the senior Hungarian military official in emigration, will attempt to claim the leadership of the MHBK. ZAKO, however, has a clear advantage because he, as contrasted to FARKAS, has not been active politically and thereby has found a following among the officers who have refused to be involved in party politics. It can be said that FARKAS is the head of the older generation of the Hungarian military group, the smaller group in number, whereas ZAKO has behind him the younger force and therefore the more active element.

<Currently ... Staff

Gyorgy KOLLENYI's IS organization in Salzburg has currently the following staff:



Zotz

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MGIA-3168/01

P/01933
11 Aug. 1950

HUNGARIAN EMIGRATION

Subject: Conference of the Hungarian Front Fighter Group in Munich

Date of Info: 15 July 1950

MM 1

In the report on the reorganization of the Hungarian Front Fighters Group in Emigration of 8 Aug. 1950, it was stated that the Hungarian Front Fighters Group (Magyar Harcosok Bajtarsi Koszessze - MHBK), at a meeting held in Munich on 15 July 1950, decided to reorganize their unit. For additional detail, a report on the meeting prepared by one of the members present, is herewith forwarded.

About 80 former Hungarian officers now living in Germany and Austria were present. There are no differences of opinion regarding the purpose of the MHBK - the National Christian orientation of the members; the fight against Bolshevism and the elimination of a Hungarian war debt, all are regarded as main objectives of the MHBK.

In addition to the reform of the ~~magyaroknak~~ organization (see the report referred to above), plans for the eventual mobilization of the Hungarian emigrants in the event of war, and of resistance activities in Hungary proper were also discussed at this meeting. (Source did not supply additional details probably because of special directive forbidding such a discussion).

Regarding political matters, the finality of the break between the Ference HAGY group and the MHBK was made clear. This does not mean, however, that there will be a complete withdrawal from the New York Hungarian Committee. Several members of the Committee, such as Tibor ECKHARDT, are pro-MHBK and want to cooperate with that group. On the other hand Hungarian Union regards the MHBK with disdain, and Geza SOOS, the leader of this Union in Europe recently referred to the MHBK as "Fascists and Germans" who must be destroyed if they "permit no peace".

During the conference, a noteworthy ~~incident~~ incident took place. A politically naive old Colonel, Ferenc KOSZORUS, who was probably prompted by the Hungarian Union, started a debate in which he spoke out against the ~~magyar~~ foreign leadership in the Hungarian Army (i.e. the old K.u.K. officers who came from Austria) and the Schwaben descendants (German speaking Hungarian nationals are called "Schwaben" by other Hungarians). He stated that the Hungarian soldiers would fight well only if they had Magyar commanders and gave as an example the Infantry Regiment Number 6 from Budapest-Ujvidek which was active during the 1st World War. Therefore, the MHBK should only accept Magyar officers. Following this, a former officer of the above regiment took the floor and explained that he could not agree with Col. KOSZORUS' point of view, since the ~~regiment~~ regiment, which displayed itself exceedingly well in the 1st World War, was commanded by Col. von WELLERREITER and the Brigadier was Major General GUERTLER (latter names may be wrong but the names were German ones).

Major General ZAKO interrupted the discussion at that point and stated that the members of the MHBK are all Hungarian officers and that he would never question the parentage of any of his comrades, since racial investigations in Hungary, with the exception of a brief period better forgotten, were not the practice.

2K Otto von HAPSBURG also attended this conference, and remained present for a long time. He was heartily greeted and addressed, without exception, as "Royal Majesty". His appearance was an outspoken success and he made an obviously good impression on the officers under 30 who saw little service under him as their legitimate ruler. It was also apparent that Otto von Hapsburg, as opposed to his father Karl, spoke perfect Hungarian and he made a favorable effect by conversing without strain with all present. He was also the guest of honor at the banquet which was held after the ~~the~~ conference. Otto von HAPSBURG had a long discussion with Major General ZAKO and the latter, who was formerly not a Legitimist, must now be included in this group.

On the other hand, Otto von HAPSBURG appeared to be trying to ingratiate himself with the officers, or at least become a member of their circle. This action was probably caused by the fact that two years ago his attempted cooperation with the Hungarian Committee in New York never completely materialized and was never effective due to the intervention of the Hungarian Union.

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